

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 18, to page 6, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

An example of this type of inbound policy is a User Access Provider that has 2 links, Link 1 and Link 2, each of which communicates with a different ISP, ISP1 and ISP2, respectively. Ordinarily, the advertisements to ISP1 and ISP2 are identical. However, if there is more traffic than can be handled inbound on Link1 associated with ISP1 and there is available capacity on Link2 associated with ISP2, an inbound policy needs to be implemented to shift some traffic. Often a BGP Pad policy to artificially increase the network distance associated with ISP1 will cause a significant amount of traffic to shift to ISP2 and Link2. This may be more traffic than Link2 can carry and require the policy to be removed. To get finer granularity for the amount of traffic that is shifted, a more specific route advertisement is added to the ISP2 advertisement. This will cause traffic for a subset of the User Access Provider's customers to prefer ISP2 and Link2 inbound from the Internet.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 2-5, with the following amended paragraph:

In some embodiments of the invention, data may be sent to ~~[[a]]~~ the RIX 100 from a PACPE box 112 114 116 on a customer premise that is measuring performance. Performance measurements across available ISP paths are encoded and sent to the RIX 100 as community values and associated with the active route.

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 14-19, with the following amended paragraph:

If the measurement values are associated with an EC but the PACPE 112 114 116 has not installed the EC as a route into the customer forwarding routers, the performance data may be sent to the RIX 100 ~~[[In]]~~ in some embodiments of the invention by building a route advertisement. The advertisement is for the EC using the AS of the RIX 100 as the origin AS and inserting the BGP communities with the performance measurements associated with each FH path.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 3-8, with the following amended paragraph:

As an illustrative, non-limiting example, consider the network illustrated in Figure 2. A network 192.100.10.X (AS 1) 200 has two ISPs (AS10 and AS20), a second network 192.200.20.X (AS2) 206 has two ISPs (AS20 and AS30) 204 208, and a third network 192.300.30.X (AS3) 210 has two ISPs ([[AS 40]] AS40 and AS50) 212 214. Each network has a eBGP4 connection to the RIX 100 sending their information. The following information is sent from the networks 200 206 210 to the RIX 100: